(c) and (d) Generally the progress of area sown in major cotton producing States during the current year is normal.

Loss of standing crops due to drought

†2766. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy losses are caused every year to standing crops in various regions of the country, by drought conditions caused by scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the estimates of losses to standing crops during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the quantum of crops so damaged and the States in which these crops have been damaged; and

(c) the corresponding percentage of the total losses, to the total agricultural production in those particular years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Natural calamities including drought do also cause damage of varying magnitude to crops, depending on intensity of the calamity. It is, however, difficult to estimate the damage caused to standing crops, resulting in loss of production of foodgrains, due to natural calamities. 5 States had reported drought situation during 1998-99, 11 States during 1999-2000 and 10 States during 2000-01. As per reports received from the States, about 90 lakh ha. crop area during 1998-99, 141 lakh ha. during 1999-2000 and 255 lakh ha. during 2000-01 have been affected by drought.

Food processing park at Ernakulam

2767. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted any proposal for setting up a food processing park at Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal, alongwith the action taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Food Processing Industries,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.